

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 AID-05 SSC-01 /080 W
----- 095210

P R 251914Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1704

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES

REF: LISBON 1674

1. SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES WILL MEET AGAIN WITH
PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 25 TO CONTINUE
DISCUSSIONS ON NEW CABINET. SOARES HAS GIVEN IN ON QUESTION
OF KEEPING INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION (INTERIOR) MINISTER COL.
COSTA BRAS, AND BRAS WILL PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY MAJ. METELO.
PS MEMBER SALGADO ZENHA WILL STAY AT JUSTICE, BUT SOARES WILL
LEAVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JOIN PCP, PPD, AND MDP IN MINISTRIES
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. SOCIALISTS ARE STILL FIGHTING THE PLACEMENT
OF COMMUNISTS OR COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS IN AGRICULTURE AND EDU-
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CATION.

2. SOCIALIST STRATEGY IS FOR SOARES TO STAY IN CABINET UNTIL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. SOCIALISTS FEAR THAT THEY CANNOT MAKE EFFECTIVE THREAT TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT PPD, IN ITS PRESENT LEADERLESS STATE, WILL NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON A PROMISE TO JOIN A PS WALKOUT.

3. ACCORDING TO SOARES, MODERATES ANTUNES AND ALVES ARE TO BE GIVEN JOBS THAT WILL KEEP THEM OUT OF EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PARTICIPATION--ANTUNES AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND ALVES EITHER TO UN OR TO ANGOLA.

4. SOCIALISTS TOLD EMBASSY THAT ADM. ROSA COUTINHO WITH THE HELP OF MOZAMBIQUE HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO AND MELO ANTUNES IS QUIETLY ORGANIZING A MOVE TO PUSH GONCALVES OUT IF GONCALVES DOES NOT SUCCEED IN FORMING A CABINET WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. SOCIALISTS, ALTHOUGH UNEASY WITH COUTINHO, DO NOT CONSIDER HIM A COMMUNIST (REFTEL) AND PREFER HIM TO THE HEARTILY-DETESTED GONCALVES. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SOCIALISTS ARE DRAGGING FEET ON NEW CABINET IN ORDER TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS MOVE BY ADM. COUTINHO.

5. FOLLOWING IS OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF THE NEW CABINET LINEUP BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NON-SOCIALIST AND SOCIALIST SOURCES, INCLUDING MARIO SOARES.

(#-CROSSHATCH INDICATES CURRENT CABINET MEMBER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY INCUMBENT)

--WITHOUT PORTFOLIO - MAGALHAES MOTA# (PPD)

- MARIO SOARES# (PS)

- ALVARO CUNHAL# (PCP)

- PEREIRA DE MOURA (MDP)

--DEFENSE - CAPT. RIVEIRO#

--FOREIGN AFFAIRS - MAJ. ANTUNES#

--INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION - ALMEIDA SANTOS#
(INDEPENDENT-MODERATE)

--INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION - MAJ. METELO

--JUSTICE - SALGADO ZENHA#

--FINANCE - MDP

--ECONOMY AND PLANNING - MARIO MURTEIRA

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(INDEPENDENT - MDP SYMPATHIZER)

--EDUCATION - INDEPENDENT (NOT PCP SYMPATHIZER)

--LABOR - CPT. COSTA MARTINS#

--SOCIAL AFFAIRS - PPD

--SOCIAL COMMUNICATION - ADM. JESUINO#

--ECONOMY MINISTRY IS TO BE ABOLISHED AND DIVIDED INTO
FOUR MINISTRIES:

(A) FOREIGN COMMERCE - SILVA LOPES# (INDEPENDENT-MODERATE)

(B) DOMESTIC COMMERCE - ?

(C) INDUSTRY - JOAO CRAVINHO (FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH
PRE-CONGRESS MES)

(D) AGRICULTURE - (NOT PCP SYMPATHIZER)

--PUBLIC WORKS IS TO BE SPLIT INTO TWO MINISTRIES:

(A) PUBLIC WORKS - COL. FERNANDES#

(B) TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS - PCP (RPT PCP)

6. BOX SCORE IS:

PCP - 2

MDP AND ALLIES - 3

PS - 2

PPD - 2

INDEPENDENTS - 4

MILITARY - 5

NOT DECIDED - 4

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Message Attributes

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